



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

ESHER & THE DITTONS.

FIFTEENTH

Annual Report


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ending Dec. 31st, 1909.

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ANNUAL REPORT

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

THAMES DITTON,
SURREY,
March, 1910.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Esher and the Dittons.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my fifteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1909. Before entering into the details of the vital statistics, it may be well to state that though the report is made for the information of the members of the Council in the first instance, yet copies have to be submitted for the information of the Local Government Board, the County Council, and Home Office, the latter department dealing with the special work that has been done in connection with the Factories and Workshops. Owing to this it will be noticed that there is a good deal of information included in the report which is well known to local residents, but which the Local Government Board have asked should be included.

I estimate that the population of the District at the middle of the year was about 11,500, a figure which is probably very much smaller than what the actual number should be. In estimating the population for the purpose of a report, it is assumed that the population has

increased at the same rate now as it did during the past decade, and consequently no allowance is made for the development of building estates, and the resulting increase in the number of inhabitants.

The births numbered 304, or a rate of 25·2 per 1,000 persons living in the District. There were five illegitimate births or a percentage of 1·5. The birth-rate of the District is slightly lower than that of England and Wales, which is 25·6, and shows an increase on what it was a few years ago. It will be seen on referring to Table I. at the end of the report that the average rate for the last ten years was 23·6, and it is very difficult to assign the reason for this rising rate. Twenty children under the age of one year died during the period I am reviewing, and in Table V. I have analysed the causes and ages at which death took place. The most noteworthy point is the high rate of death from measles and premature birth, as well as the high mortality as shown by the deaths of four children of illegitimate birth, compared with five illegitimate births. A total of 20 deaths among children under the age of one year, when compared with the number of births registered in the District, gives a comparative infant mortality figure of 65·7 per 1,000 births registered. In other words this means that if there had been 1,000 babies born in the District last year, over 65 would have died before the end of the year. This mortality is high, but bears comparison with the corresponding figure for England and Wales, which is 121, or another way of putting it is, that where we lose 65 babies, in the whole of England and Wales 121 are lost. Though the number for our District is low, it is right that it should be so, for the following reasons; in the first place it has been noticed that the deaths among babies have a direct connection with the character of the weather during the summer months, for in a hot dry summer the number of deaths among babies is much greater than in a cool, wet one like the one that is past in 1909. Again, in this district there

are no factories where women are employed to the same extent as in some parts of the country and where the baby is left to a nurse's care while the mother goes to work. As this is a residential part the struggle of the babies for existence is much lighter than in places where only the strongest can survive the early years. The Council has not adopted the Notification of Births Act, as it was felt that in a scattered district of this type, it would be difficult to get full benefit from the Act. Its adoption would necessitate the appointment of a health visitor, who certainly would be anything but overworked, and who would very likely only be required to visit at the homes of a small proportion of the children.

Use is made of the cards issued by the Surrey County Council giving directions for the feeding and management of children, and also simple instructions as to their feeding by hand if such was necessary.

The total number of deaths was 122, or a rate of 10·6 per 1,000 persons living. This is somewhat smaller than that for the whole country, which was 14·5 for the year ending December 31st, 1908, and is also less than the average for the last ten years, namely, 11·3. There were 17 deaths registered as having been caused by some of that class of disease which is sometimes called zymotic. These were 12 from Measles, 2 from Whooping Cough, 2 from Diphtheria, and 1 from Diarrhœa, and give a zymotic death-rate of 1·4 per 1,000 as compared with 1·29 which is that for England and Wales.

In Table IV. at the end of the report all the deaths are analysed and classified under the different causes and at the different age periods. The number of deaths from Phthisis is 8, or a rate of ·69 per 1,000. This number is lower than that of the preceding year, which was 17, and the rate is much smaller than the Phthisis rate for the country, which is usually about 1·6 per 1,000.

Nine deaths were assigned to under the cause of Cancer, and this figure is slightly less than the average for the past ten years, which was 9·4.

Eighteen deaths were due to diseases of the lungs (Bronchitis and Pneumonia), which is rather more than have been noted in former years, and this may be due partly to the fact that many children were attacked by Measles and Whooping Cough, and on the certificate this fact may have been omitted, and partly to the long spell of cold damp weather in the summer and early spring.

The District is situated on the south bank of the Thames, and is bounded by it on the north; by the Urban District of Surbiton on the east, and by that of the Moleseys on the west, the southern boundary being formed by the Urban District of Cobham.

It consists of the villages of Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, and Esher, the parish of Thames Ditton included what is now the Claygate ward of the Urban District. All these places now form growing villages, which are popular residential resorts within easy reach of any part of London.

Roughly the District might be divided into two parts, the lower, adjoining the Thames, and consisting of Thames Ditton, and parts of Long Ditton and Esher and only slightly higher than the banks of the river itself, while Upper Long Ditton, Claygate, and the remaining portion of Esher form part of the rising ground overlooking the Thames Valley. The chief levels above Ordnance Datum are 22 feet in Summer Road, Thames Ditton, 103 feet in Claygate, 116 feet in Upper Long Ditton, and 160 feet in the highest part of Esher.

The subsoil of Thames Ditton, and parts of Esher and Long Ditton, is gravel overlying London clay; the latter forms the subsoil of Claygate and Upper Long Ditton, while the higher part of Esher is on the Bagshot sands which overlie the London clay.

The chief watercourses, in addition to the Thames, and forming tributaries of it are the Mole, the Ember, and the Rythe. Of these, the two former take off the surface water from Esher, and part of Thames Ditton, and the Rythe conveys away the water from Claygate, the remainder of Thames Ditton, and the greater part of Long Ditton.

The rainfall averages about 26 inches per annum, and the climate is a very healthy one, this to some extent being due to the large amount of common land. The area of the District is 5,978 acres, and of this 536 acres is common land, and $11\frac{1}{2}$ acres covered by water, which forms several ponds at Esher.

The District is well timbered, and this fact and the large open spaces account for the pure fresh breezes which can be so freely enjoyed in all parts. On the west and south the more rural parts of Surrey lie open to view, and give an ample space from which to derive the health-giving breezes.

A very considerable portion of the male population make a daily journey to London for business purposes.

The following are the chief industries worked in the various parts:—Book-binding at the Royal Mills, Esher; Art Bronze Foundry at Thames Ditton; Brickmaking at Claygate. There is also a brewery and a mineral water factory at Thames Ditton, and part of the Waterworks of the Metropolitan Water Board are situated in Long Ditton. None of these can be said to have any deleterious effect on the public health. There is also Sandown Race-course at Esher, and the Imber trotting course at Thames Ditton, both of which give employment to a considerable number of men.

The house accommodation for the working classes has improved very materially during the last few years, as a large number of houses have been built in various parts which are let at rents from 6/- to 12/- per week. In

some cases it has been found that these houses are occupied by two families, which can never be satisfactory where the accommodation is only designed for one family. The newer cottages are provided with small larders, which are properly ventilated into the open air, and the Council is now enforcing the bye-law which provides for the paving of a minimum area around each house, as well as for the proper drainage of the back yards.

The adoption of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, has enabled the Council to enforce the paving of the back yards of some of the older cottage property. Thus in the Clump Meadow Estate, the yards of 48 cottages have received treatment which should result in a much improved sanitary condition. The same powers have been utilized to obtain the paving of yards in King's Road, Ditton Hill, with a great improvement in dryness of the houses.

The yards attached to cottages generally are well kept, and while there are always some properties which require constant supervision, yet I find that owners are for the most part quite ready to comply with any reasonable request for amendment.

The work of supervising the erection of new houses is carried out by the Surveyor and his staff, who are most particular in seeing that the requirements of the Building Bye-laws are properly attended to.

The water used throughout the greater part of the district is that supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board, which is derived from the Thames, and its quality is so well known that I need not quote the results of analyses to prove its purity. It is hoped that the time is not far distant when the whole district will be given a constant supply. Houses in the extreme southern part of the District have a supply from the Leatherhead Water Works which is good both in quality and quantity.

A cottage in Claygate ward was found to have a supply from a shallow well which on analysis was proved not to be fit for use for drinking, and action by the Council has resulted in the well being closed and a supply provided from the Metropolitan Water Board's main.

The milk supply is partly produced on the spot, and there are only enough cows to provide less than half the amount that would be used if each person were to consume three-quarters of a pint. I have estimated that not less than 52 per cent. must be imported milk, but have no means of finding out the source from which this milk comes.

In a residential district such as this is, the supply of food generally, and milk in particular, is one that each householder gives some attention to, with the result that the milk sold is for the most part good in quality. And at no period during the year has there ever been reason to suspect the milk as the source of any outbreak of disease. There are 16 persons registered as cowkeepers, the names and addresses are given in the subjoined table.

H. Hanson,	Ember Lane,	Thames Ditton.
B. Keen,	Manor Farm,	Station Road, Thames Ditton.
J. A. Keen,	Summer Road,	Thames Ditton.
S. Goodrich,	Couchmore,	Thames Ditton.
J. Taylor,	St. Leonards,	Thames Ditton.
F. J. Chirgwin,	Couchmore,	Ditton Marsh.
R. Cobb,	The Grove,	Esher.
D. Edwards,	Copseham,	Esher.
E. Broad,	West End,	Esher.
J. Gilpin,	Hill Farm,	Esher.
R. Howard,	Pound Farm,	Esher.
H. Broom,	Hill Farm,	Ditton Hill.
J. P. Roberts,	Horridon Farm,	Claygate.
T. H. Moon,	Vale Farm,	Claygate.
H. Stent,	Slough Farm,	Claygate.
R. Brice,	Green Farm,	Claygate.

The average number of cattle that are kept is about 330, and the animals are only in the sheds during part of the day, unless during the most inclement winter weather. These sheds are under regular inspection by the Council's officials, and the cows are inspected four times yearly by the veterinary surgeon who reports on their condition each quarter.

The result of these quarterly veterinary inspections showed that there had been three cows who were affected with tuberculosis, and which were not in such condition as to be able to produce milk that was fit for human use. These animals were sold in the market without any guarantee as to their state of health, but I am unable to say whether they were still used for milk cows or were slaughtered and used as food. The absence of powers to follow up and if necessary to compel the slaughtering of such animals, seems to me to detract very largely from the utility of the work done by the veterinary surgeon, but in spite of this I am sure that this inspection is of value as it tends to make cowkeepers more careful and cleanly in the management of their farms.

The cowsheds are well kept, and the bye-laws for the regulation of cleaning, and whitewashing are systematically enforced. Several of the buildings are excellent in every respect, but there are some old sheds which are difficult to keep clean, and ventilate properly, and these require more constant supervision; it is found that the proprietors themselves are willing to meet the requests and suggestions which are made from time to time. In one or two instances it will be necessary to ask the owners or occupiers to do some drainage works, and also to pave and drain the ground surrounding the cowsheds. There should be no difficulty in getting this done as it is widely recognised that the surroundings of places where milk is produced should be at least free from dirt and filth, and a higher standard of cleanliness should be found in these places where such an important article of food is obtained

The dairies and milkshops are all well kept, and every care is taken to keep them in a thoroughly sanitary condition. Samples of milk are taken and analysed by the Inspector appointed for that purpose by the County Council, by whom the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are administered. Hitherto no examinations have been made of milk to ascertain the presence of tubercle bacilli and I think this subject might be considered by the Council with a view to having this done; I may say that I intend shortly bringing this point before you for discussion.

With regard to the other food stuff sold in the District it has not been found necessary to advise any action; all premises where food is prepared or stored are under regular inspection and have been found in good sanitary state.

By far the larger part of the meat used is brought into the District ready killed and dressed for use, and I am informed that it is mostly slaughtered in the abattoirs in London where it is subjected to thorough inspection. Several of the butchers' shops have slaughterhouses attached to them, but they are not used to any extent for the purpose of preparing meat for use, but only occasionally for killing sheep or calves; all these are inspected three or four times during the year, and kept in a clean and proper state.

The Council has not exercised its powers for registering and licensing these places, and neither are there any bye-laws in force dealing with the control of slaughterhouses. It has not been necessary to take any action under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875, which gives a magistrate the power to order the destruction of unsound meat, neither has it been necessary to condemn any meat as being unfit for use owing to the presence of tuberculosis.

The system of drainage which was established some twenty years ago is still working well, and this especially so since the provision of a new deep sewer by which the

sewage finds its way by gravitation to the sewage farm, where it is pumped to the surface; after precipitation with aluminoferric, it is further treated by passage over the land, the resulting effluent being discharged into the River Mole. Some parts of the sewage system are not watertight and permit the entrance of a quantity of subsoil water, which while diluting the sewage and possibly rendering it less liable to give off offensive smells, yet increases the amount to be pumped, and to be dealt with at the farm.

The house drains throughout the District are in very many cases of recent construction, and are quite efficient. Trouble often arises from the many systems of "combined drains" which were formerly permitted to be made, and in several instances during the past year the Council has had to undertake the work of reconstructing these combined drains. Also it has been necessary to relay the drains of several houses in Warwick Square, Summer Road and Weston Green. In every case where stone covers of Inspection Chambers are found bedded down and below the surface of the ground action taken has resulted in their being brought up to the surface, and replaced by a modern iron cover. Nuisances arising from defective fresh air inlets have been dealt with, and are mostly caused by the light construction of these appliances, without regard to the exposed position in which they often have to be placed.

The administration of the law with regard to the pollution of rivers and streams has not called for any special action on the Council's part. The various streams have been inspected and kept free from nuisances. The watercourse known as the Rythe is one that has needed attention owing to the state of the bed of the stream at Winter's Bridge. Here, for the space of about 150 yards, the bottom is broken and uneven, and permits water to lie stagnant, which in hot weather is often the ground of complaint owing to the smell it gives off.

The work of clearing away house refuse is undertaken by the Council, and a weekly collection is carried out. The refuse is collected by the householders in galvanized iron dust bins, until the time of removal, when it is taken on carts to tips on the Claygate brickfields, where it is used as fuel in the process of burning bricks. Most of the houses are provided with sanitary dust bins, but there are still a few where the old brick ones may be found, and whenever possible opportunity is taken to have them replaced by the handier and more sanitary iron ones.

In addition to the defects of sanitary appliances, and other parts of dwelling houses, which if neglected so often cause serious nuisances, and which for the most part are dealt with by correspondence or by interview, there have only been one or two nuisances which have had to be dealt with by statutory notices. In one case, while investigating the cause of some cases of diphtheria, I found a house where the drainage was defective, and where at some time the back yard had been roofed in with the result that some of the rooms on the ground floor had no longer any opening into the external air, and a condition existed which was likely to be injurious to health. After some correspondence, and in the end the service of a statutory notice, this house was rendered fit for occupation again.

Another complaint was made on the ground that gypsies camping on some waste land on the roadside were causing a nuisance, and on investigation I found that almost every night during parts of the year this ground was used for a camping place, and as there were neither any water supply or sanitary conveniences the place was getting into a seriously filthy state. Some difficulty has been found in discovering the owner of the land, and the matter is not definitely settled yet. The Council has taken such action as will, at any rate for the present, prevent the recurrence of this nuisance.

The bye-laws in force in the district are those relating to the prevention of nuisances, and those dealing with

the drainage of existing buildings. There are no noxious trades carried on, neither are there any common lodging houses in the district, hence there has never been any necessity for having bye-laws to regulate these matters. Although a number of houses are occupied by more than one family, in which case the house is in reality let in two tenements, still there are few cases in which any advantage would be gained by having bye-laws for houses let in lodgings. These bye-laws are really wanted to control those houses which are known as "farmed-out houses," in which the person who takes the house furnishes the rooms with very inferior things, and then lets the rooms at usually exorbitant prices. The practice here is rather that a house is taken which is either too large, or the rent is too much for the tenant to pay himself, so he lets one or more rooms, and in this manner gets the balance of rent made up, the rooms thus let being hired in an unfurnished state.

Difficulty often arises when the question of overcrowding has to be considered, as complaints are made stating that so many people are living in such and such a house. It is not realised that the main point which has to be discovered is what is the cubic space per person, and in most cases it is found that persons living in the house have ample space, though as far as comfort is concerned there are undoubtedly too many people occupying the place.

There has been a new public elementary school built at Thames Ditton for the boys' department, and which is thoroughly up-to-date in every way, and a great improvement on the old building. The lighting, ventilation and heating are all very good, and the district now contains one of the best school buildings in the County.

The old rooms that had formerly been used for the boys' school have been improved and joined on to those which were used for the girls, with the result that the accommodation for these children has been made much

better. The sanitary condition of all the schools is good, though the buildings at Esher and Long Ditton are old and not well lighted, and also are difficult to warm and ventilate. It has been found necessary to provide a temporary school for the infants' department at Long Ditton, and I understand that there is a scheme to build a new one for this part of the school.

The lavatories at each of the schools are connected to the sewers, and have an ample supply of water from the Metropolitan Water Board's mains. The work of medical examination of the children is carried out by the special staff appointed by the Surrey County Council, and under an arrangement with the County Education Medical Officer I see and examine any cases of alleged illness which prevents children from attending school and where there is no doctor in attendance, after having received an order from the School Attendance Committee to do so. Also doubtful cases of infectious disease or contagious cases are referred to me by the various teachers. In connection with this work I paid five ordinary visits and 13 visits in connection with infectious diseases; it was necessary to close four of the schools for outbreaks of infectious illness. I also saw two children at their homes, and examined 18 others, and gave 16 certificates with regard to their inability to attend school or otherwise.

In the Table I give the notifications of infectious disease in a form which allows those of the past year to be easily compared with the four preceding ones.

	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	Average.
Total No. of Notifications received	57	48	52	52	45	51·4
Scarlet Fever	33	14	21	27	33	25·6
Diphtheria... ..	8	13	16	5	9	10·2
Enteric Fever	3	1	3	3	3	2·6
Tuberculosis	11	6	12	17	—	—

The total number of notifications, which includes two cases of Puerperal Fever, is rather over the average of the five years ending December 31st, 1909. But in the first year of the series there was no notification of cases of tuberculosis, so that the average in the table is somewhat less than it ought to be. There was a large increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever owing to an outbreak of the disease among the children attending the elementary school at Esher, and on account of this it was necessary to close the schools there for four weeks. On referring to Table III. it will be seen that all the patients who had this complaint, with the exception of three, were isolated in the fever hospital. This outbreak was the result of unrecognised cases attending school while in an infectious state. At one of my visits to the school I found a child there with well marked peeling in progress on the hands and feet. And later, when the schools were closed, and I was looking up those who had been absent at the time of closure, I came upon another child who was desquamating freely on hands and feet. Four of the cases notified from Thames Ditton were in connection with this outbreak in Esher. It would appear that only reasonable care was necessary to have prevented this outbreak of illness, as, had the parents of the first cases taken the precaution of seeking medical advice and kept the children away from school, as far as one can see the whole series of 24 cases might have never occurred.

Three of the cases of diphtheria notified from Thames Ditton were from houses very close together, though there was some interval of time, amounting to two or three months, which elapsed between the first two and the third. When investigating the cause of the third one I found that the drains were very old and defective, and the owner of the property was induced to have them relaid. At the same time it was found that the drain which received the sewage from about 16 houses in this vicinity, was also in an unsatisfactory condition, and the Council decided to re-

lay this portion, and on its completion the drains of the rest of the houses were relaid, by the various owners; notices to that effect having been served on them by the Council. The remaining cases were occasional ones which did not appear to have any connection with each other, and I was unable to trace out the source of the infection.

The three cases of enteric fever which were notified occurred among residents of cottage property, and in respect to the first it was found that the drainage was not in good condition, and since I have been able to get the owner to have the defective portions relaid. The other two cases were men who were employed on the works which were in progress at Molesey for building new filter beds and reservoirs for the Metropolitan Water Board. A careful search at their homes did not discover any source from which the disease might have been contracted, and I believe the illness was caught at the place of work.

Two cases of puerperal fever were reported, both of which were mild in character, and were not caused by any insanitary condition of the houses. These did not occur in the practice of midwives, and up to the present there have been none in practice, though two or three are living in the district; these women, who are registered as midwives, are in very good monthly nursing practice.

Eleven cases of tuberculosis were reported, and the houses were inspected and directions given to the patients as to the best means of preventing the spread of the disease; when any case ended fatally an offer to disinfect is made as soon as the death comes to my knowledge. The notification is entirely voluntary, and fees are paid on the same scale as under the Notification Acts. There is no available accommodation for the treatment of early or advanced cases, except such as can be obtained in the Infirmary. I received seven certificates under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908, by which pauper cases of tuberculosis are notified to the District Council, and

in each case I called and endeavoured to give such instructions as would enable the patient to prevent spreading the disease. It is more in connection with this class of case in the early stages that the absence of hospital accommodation is most felt, and perhaps more with respect to the education which patients receive while undergoing a course of such treatment than from the actual benefits received from medical treatment while in hospital.

There is good hospital accommodation available for the notifiable diseases in the Tolworth Fever Hospital. The Council is one of the bodies which support the Tolworth Joint Hospital, which is situated in the Urban District of Surbiton. Most of the cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, and enteric fever are removed and treated here, but when this hospital is full it is necessary then to send cases on to the Fever Hospital at Cuddington, which is in the District of Epsom. As soon as possible after a patient is removed to the Hospital, the rooms and contents are disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector, who generally uses a spray of formaline, for this purpose. All washable bedding is treated by soaking in carbolic or other disinfectant solution, and also clothing which has been exposed to infection is treated in the same manner. The Council has not installed any special disinfecting apparatus, as use is made of the steam disinfector at the Tolworth Hospital, when a special request is made that any articles should be dealt with in this manner. In these cases no charge is made for the work of disinfection, but the Council charges for the expenses incurred in hiring vans and fetching and returning the goods from the disinfector.

A systematic inspection of the Factories and Workshops is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, under my direction, and from time to time I myself make a systematic series of visits to these work-places. During the year it was necessary to send out ten written notices, by which

the following conditions were remedied, one yard paved, four cleansing of premises, four cases of repairs to sanitary appliances, and one accumulation of offensive refuse removed. In 23 instances minor nuisances were dealt with on verbal request, and the following matters were attended to, 13 premises were cleansed, two accumulations of refuse were removed, in five instances repairs to sanitary conveniences were carried out, and three water closets were cleaned and put into a state of proper repair. The name and address of only one outworker was received, and the premises were inspected and found to be in good sanitary condition and free from overcrowding. There is one underground bakehouse in the district, which is kept in excellent order. No complaints have been received from the Home Office, with regard to such conditions as come under the control of the Council in the discharge of the duties imposed by the Factories and Workshops Acts. All the various premises registered under these Acts were found to be supplied with good, satisfactory water closet accommodation, and the appliances were kept in good order and free from any nuisance.

I have made systematic inspections of various properties in the lower parts of Thames Ditton, and in part of Ditton Hill, and also in Esher, the latter were specially in connection with the outbreak of scarlet fever which occurred there during the autumn. In Thames Ditton I was dealing with some unpaved back yards and defective drains, which were likely to become a danger to health, and on my advice the Council have got these insanitary conditions remedied.

In closing this report I have much pleasure in again expressing my thanks to Mr. G. C. Over, who in his capacity of Sanitary Inspector, has given me great help both in the working of the District and in supplying me with a short account of the work which he has done during

the past year. I am also much indebted to the Clerk and to the Surveyor, who have always been ready and willing to render me any assistance or advice when I have had occasion to seek it.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. SENIOR, M.B., B.C. Cantab., D.P.H. Lond.
Medical Officer of Health.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

THAMES DITTON,

January, 1910.

Dr. Senior, D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

DEAR SIR,

I beg herewith to submit my Seventh Annual Report, showing the sanitary inspections made, nuisances found and abated, and other works dealt with by the Sanitary Department within the Urban District for the year ending December, 1909.

GENERAL INSPECTION WORK.

During the year I have, as usual, given much time and attention to house to house inspection work, also re-inspections on account of works in progress.

In connection with this work I have been successful in bringing about the abatement of a large number of nuisances of the kind which are continually cropping up in connection with small cottage properties, wherever they exist.

Occupiers have in 16 cases been induced to cleanse and whitewash their cottages throughout, and in 47 cases have carried out partial cleansing, &c., as was required.

The total number of inspections which I have made during the year amounted to 2,439, and included visits to dwelling houses, Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Schools, Bakehouses, Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshops, Slaughter-houses, and also shops and stores in connection with the food supply.

The schedule at the end of this Report indicates the number of nuisances abated and other improvements carried out.

THE KEEPING OF POULTRY AND RABBITS.

A surprisingly large number of cottagers persist in keeping poultry or rabbits. Owing to the confined runs and places in which as a rule these animals have to be kept, and their proximity to the back doors of dwelling houses, they often cause a serious nuisance through not being kept so clean as they should be.

Numerous complaints have been received from persons whose back doors are close to a neighbour's fowl run. Offenders are cautioned, and caused to clean the places out from time to time, but in many cases the nuisance is of an ever recurring nature. During the year I have in a number of instances caused the removal of poultry to more approved sites.

INSPECTION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY.

The various premises in the District where food is prepared for sale and exposed for the same purpose, viz. :—Shops and stores occupied by Butchers, Fishmongers, Greengrocers, Bakers, Milksellers, and others have been inspected at intervals during the year. I have found no meat or other food diseased, unsound or unfit for human food, exposed or intended for sale, whilst the storage places have whenever inspected been found in a clean and wholesome condition.

There are not a large number of oxen slaughtered within the District, but a considerable number of the smaller animals, such as sheep, calves and pigs are dealt with.

In the case of imported meats, of which I find a considerable amount is retailed, this is rigorously inspected before passing into the hands of the local tradesmen.

The rearing of pigs, for slaughter, in the District, is carried out under such conditions of inspection and cleanliness as to render the animals as little liable to disease as can be in the ordinary way. No tuberculous carcase has been reported to me or come under my notice.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

These buildings, nine in number, have been regularly inspected. Limewashing of the walls, &c., has been carried out as often as necessary, and no nuisance has been permitted to exist by reason of the existence or non-removal of foul matter.

On the whole a good standard of cleanliness has been maintained.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

The total number of persons who are now registered as cowkeepers or milksellers, or both, is 26. Some of them, in addition to farming cows, keep a separate milkshop, so that the number of premises under inspection amounts to 31, as follows :—

Number who farm cows	...	...	16
Milkshops	...	...	9
Shops at which a small quantity of milk			
is sold	...	...	5

During the year the number of inspections made at these premises by me amounted to 202. The milkshops,

utensils and the milk itself, whenever inspected, have at all times been found under conditions of scrupulous cleanliness.

With regard to the cowsheds, the majority of the persons responsible caused the half-yearly limewashing to be carried out promptly at the appointed times. In a few cases subsequent inspections and requests were made until the work was put in hand. On the whole a good standard of cleanliness has been maintained.

During the year the Council's Veterinary Inspector of Cows notified me of the existence of three cows which were unfit for milk supply. In each case I took the necessary steps to prevent the milk being sold for human food until the animals were disposed of, and afterwards reported the fact to the Council.

BAKEHOUSES.

The nine Bakehouses situated within the District have been periodically inspected and were, as a rule, found in a clean and sanitary condition.

The half-yearly limewashing of walls, &c., required by the Factory Act, has in all cases been strictly carried out at the appointed time.

DUST COLLECTION.

The system adopted for the collection of ashes and household refuse is carried out by the Surveyor's Department, and has given great satisfaction, the complaints received being very few in number.

It has been necessary in 58 instances to call upon owners or occupiers to provide sanitary dustbins to replace those missing, worn out, or otherwise defective. In each case the request was complied with by those responsible.

DISINFECTION.

I have during the year, under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, carried out disinfections of premises, clothing and bedding in 47 instances, after cases of infectious illness, which have either been removed to the Isolation Hospital or nursed privately at home.

Following the outbreak of scarlet fever at Esher, the Elementary Schools and their contents, including desks, maps, books, &c., were disinfected in a thorough manner, the work extending over three days. The Infants' School at West End was also disinfected as a precautionary measure.

In all cases following infectious illness the drains have been examined, and, where necessary, subjected to a smoke test under pressure.

All requests to owners or occupiers to re-lay or repair defective drains, repair sanitary appliances or carry out cleansing have been complied with.

The work of disinfection has been carried out with satisfactory results by the use of either sulphur, liquid formalin solution used with a spraying machine or the burning of formalin tablets.

STABLE AND CAB YARDS.

Inspections have from time to time been made at these places, and where necessary, occupiers were caused to remove accumulations of stable manure, &c. Owing to a recurring and serious nuisance at Esher through the absence of a proper manure pit, the owners of the premises have been required to construct a proper receptacle in accordance with the bye-laws. For the same reason a similar receptacle has been constructed in connection with some stabling at Hare Lane.

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The elementary schools throughout the District have been periodically inspected in order to ascertain the condition of the sanitary arrangements. Whenever the inspections have been made the drains, sinks, urinals, sanitary fittings, &c., were found to be in an excellent condition of cleanliness.

URINALS.

The urinals attached to licensed premises have been inspected and their condition noted. The majority appear to be kept in a clean and sanitary condition, but in some cases it was necessary that the work of flushing out the places should be carried out more frequently. My requests for this work have always received prompt attention.

Two urinals have been condemned as unfit for use and two new ones to replace them erected on more approved sites.

Acting on the instruction of the Medical Officer of Health, I have regularly inspected all the lavatories at the different railway stations in the District and found them to be kept in a thoroughly satisfactory manner.

COMPLAINTS.

The complaints received by me respecting nuisances amounted to 54, and related to such matters as blocked drains, gipsy encampments, insanitary poultry runs, accumulations of trade refuse, bad smells, overcrowding, and other conditions of insanitation.

Each complaint, with date, particulars, and subsequent action taken, has been duly recorded in the register kept for this purpose.

In all cases, whatever class of nuisance was found to exist, a suitable remedy has been adopted for the abatement of the same.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, WORKS OF
IMPROVEMENT AND NUISANCES ABATED
DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1909.

Number of Dwellings inspected under the Public	
Health Act 	1225
Re-inspections of Works in progress, &c.	494
Miscellaneous inspections of Premises other than	
dwellings 	195
Inspections under the Factory and Workshops Act	228
Inspections of Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops...	202
Inspections of Meat and other Foods 	95
Number of Complaints received and investigated...	54
Number of Cottage Dwellings cleansed, &c.,	
throughout 	16
Number of Cottage Dwellings partly cleansed as	
required 	47
Number of Premises at which disinfection of rooms,	
bedding, &c., has been carried out after infec-	
tious illness 	47
Cleansing, repairs, &c., at Premises under the Fac-	
tory and Workshops Act 	33
Private House Drains tested	11
Sanitary Dust Bins provided to replace those miss-	
ing, defective, or worn out 	58
New W.C. Flushing Tanks provided 	11
Defective W.C. Tanks repaired 	48
W.C.'s Rebuilt 	4
W.C.'s Repaired, Cleansed, &c. 	19
Defective drains, manholes, soil pipes, &c., repaired	24
Private house drains re-laid	8
Repairs to domestic sinks 	12
Leaky roofs and gutters overhauled and repaired	19
Fresh air inlets repaired or renewed 	10
Back yards paved 	9
Back yards repaired with clinkers	48

Domestic water cisterns cleaned out and new lids provided	... ..	27
Nuisances caused by foul accumulations, poultry, rabbits, &c., abated	... ..	30

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

GEO. C. OVER, Assoc.R.San.Inst.
Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.—For the Whole District of Esher and the Dittons.

YEAR.	Population estimated Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Insti- tutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Insti- tutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Numb r.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.	At all Ages.		Number.	Rate.*					
					Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number.						Rate.*	
													3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1898	8,983	226	25.04	20	92.9	104	11.91	...	3	3	104	11.9	
1899	9,128	205	22.4	24	117	110	13.29	...	2	11	119	12.04	
1900	9,274	205	22.1	20	97.5	84	9.07	3	1	7	94	10.12	
1901	9,420	214	22.7	28	131	122	13.0	2	1	10	133	14.2	
1902	9,547	214	23.5	21	98.1	100	10.4	2	...	9	104	11.4	
1903	9,667	197	20.3	23	116.7	99	10.03	4	2	21	118	12.4	
1904	9,787	248	25.3	27	108.8	94	9.5	3	2	15	107	10.9	
1905	9,907	223	22.5	17	76.2	89	8.9	5	0	9	98	9.8	
1906	10,057	275	27.3	22	80	96	9.6	3	4	19	111	11.03	
1907	10,237	276	26.9	23	83.3	102	9.9	8	0	10	122	11.9	
1908	10,783	257	23.8	22	85	90	8.4	4	1	17	111	10.2	
Averages for years 1899- 1908	97,800	231	23.6	22.7	99.2	98.6	10.15	3	1.6	12.4	111.7	11.3	
1909	11,502	304	25.5	20	65.7	118	10.25	1	—	3	122	10.6	

*Rates in columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.
Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 5,978.

Total population at all ages, 9,489.
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,996.
Average number of persons per house, 4.75.

Census, 1901.

TABLE II.—Esher and the Dittons.

YEAR.	NAMES OF LOCALITIES.											
	THAMES DITTON.				LONG DITTON.				ESHER.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1898...	3,094	100	44	6	2,150	49	19	3	2,489	48	31	8
1899...	3,157	89	47	13	2,175	38	21	4	2,518	49	29	5
1900...	3,235	95	36	9	2,206	49	19	4	2,554	39	18	4
1901...	3,311	88	56	14	2,237	41	28	3	2,590	47	29	3
1902...	3,377	97	49	10	2,265	44	20	3	2,623	44	19	5
1903...	3,434	87	45	10	2,289	28	19	7	2,650	52	34	2
1904...	3,498	110	50	14	2,313	46	21	7	2,671	53	26	4
1905...	3,562	99	43	11	2,340	38	19	1	2,697	52	21	2
1906...	3,641	111	52	7	2,374	56	30	8	2,739	56	18	3
1907	3,759	123	47	13	2,425	51	26	6	2,802	53	32	5
1908...	3,860	91	33	5	2,477	65	23	9	2,864	54	22	3
Avg.s. of yrs. 1898-1908	3,484	98.1	45	10	2,309	45	22	4	2,670	49	24	3.5
1909...	3,911	129	56	10	2,555	66	31	4	2,967	45	19	3

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1909,
in the Urban District of Esher and the Dittons.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							Total Cases Notified in Each Locality				* No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from Each Locality.				
	At Ages—Years.							Th. Ditt.	Long Ditt.	Esh- er.	Clay- gate.	Th. Ditt.	Long Ditt.	Esh- er.	Clay- gate.	Total cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards									
Small Pox ...																
Cholera ...																
Diphtheria (incl. Memb. Croup)	8		4	2	1	1		7	1			6	1			7
Erysipelas ...																
Scarlet Fever ...	33		1	30	1	1		9		24		9		21		30
Typhus Fever...																
Enteric Fever ...	3			1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1			2
Relapsing Fever																
Continued Fever																
Puerperal Fever	2					2		1			1					
Plague ...																
Phthisis ...	11			2	2	7		8	1	2						
TOTALS ...	57		5	35	5	12		26	3	26	2	16	2	21		39

* Tolworth Isolation Hospital, Surbiton District. Total available Beds Number of Diseases that can be
concurrently treated 3.

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and ages at, Death during Year 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).				DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 & under 5.	5 & under 15.	15 & under 25.	25 & under 65.	65 & upwards.	Thames Ditton	Long Ditton.	Esher.	Claygate.	
Small-pox												
Measles	12	3	8	1	...	...	...	7	2	1	2	
Scarlet fever												
Whooping-cough...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	..	...
Diphtheria (includ- ing membranous croup)	2	...	2	...	...	..	...	2	...	...	...
Croup												
Fever:—												
Typhus												
Enteric												
Other continued												
Epidemic influenza	3	...	1	...	...	2	...	3	...	...	...
Cholera												
Plague												
Diarrhœa	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Enteritis												
Puerperal fever ...												
Erysipelas.. ...												
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	8	...	...	...	1	7	...	5	...	1	2	
Other tuberculous diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Cancer, maglignant disease	9	...	...	...	...	8	1	4	2	3	...	
Bronchitis... ..	10	2	1	...	...	1	6	3	3	2	2	
Pneumonia	8	1	5	...	...	...	2	4	1	1	2	
Pleurisy												
Other diseases of res- piratory organs...												
Alcoholism)	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Cirrhosis of liver)												
Venereal diseases...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Premature birth ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	
Diseases & accidents parturition	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Heart diseases	12	...	1	1	...	7	3	7	2	3	...	
Accidents, Drowni'g	5	1	...	1	...	3	...	1	4	...	...
Suicides	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	...	1	
Drowning (Murder)	3	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
All other causes ...	37	6	...	...	1	8	22	11	12	8	5	1
All causes	122	20	20	4	2	41	35	56	31	19	15	1

TABLE V.—Esher and The Dittons Urban District.
 Infantile Mortality during the year 1909. Deaths from stated
 Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes	{ Certified Uncertified	6	1	...	...	7	2	2	...	2	1	2	1	1	1	1		20
<i>Common Infectious Diseases :</i>																		
Small-pox	...						1							1		1		3
Chicken-pox	...																	
Measles	...																	
Scarlet Fever	...																	
Diphtheria (inc. M. Croup)	...																	
Whooping Cough	...											1						1
<i>Diarrhœal Diseases :</i>																		
Diarrhœa, all forms	...									1								1
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis	{																	
Gastro-enteritis																		
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	{																	
<i>Wasting Diseases :</i>																		
Premature Birth	...	2	1	...	...	3												3
Congenital Defects	...	1	...	...	...	1												1
Injury at Birth	...																	
Want of Breast Milk,	{																	
Starvation																		
Atrophy, Debility,	{																	
Marasmus																		
<i>Tuberculous Diseases :</i>																		
Tuberculous Meningitis	...																	
Tuberculous Peritonitis :	{																	
Tabes Mesenterica																		
Other Tuberculous Diseases																		
<i>Other Causes :</i>																		
Erysipelas	...																	
Syphilis	...							1										1
Rickets	...																	
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...									1								1
Convulsions	...																	
Bronchitis	...											1	1					2
Laryngitis	...																	
Pneumonia	...														1			1
Suffocation, overlying	...																	
Other Causes	...	3				3	1	1	...	1								6
		6	1	...	...	7	2	2	...	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	...	20

District (or sub-division) of Esher & The Dittons ... Population, estimated to middle of 1908, 11,502.

Births in the year { Legitimate, 299. Deaths in the year of { Legitimate Infants, 16
 { Illegitimate, 5. { Illegitimate ,, 4
 Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 122.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspection.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries)	20	10	
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries)	202		
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	8		
TOTAL	230	10	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found	Remedied.	Referr'd to H.M. Insp'ct'r	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	4	4		
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of Drainage of Floors	1	1		
Other Nuisances	5	5		
† Sanitary Accommodation—				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or Defective				
Not separate for Sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory & Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)				
Other Offences				
(Excluding Offences relating to Out-work which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
Total	10	10		

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory and Workshop Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

† For Districts not in London, state here whether Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by the District Council; and if so, what standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops has been enforced.

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
MATTERS NOTIFIED TO H.M. INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133)	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 5) {	Notified by H.M. Inspector ...
	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ...
Other	
UNDERGROUND BAKEHOUSES (S. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year	1
In Use at the end of the year	1
HOMEWORK :—	
<i>List of Outworkers*</i> (S. 107) :—	
Lists received	
Addresses of Outworkers {	forwarded to other Authorities ...
	received from other Authorities ...
Inspection of Outworkers' Premises	
<i>Homework in Unwholesome or Infected Premises</i> :—	
Notices prohibiting Homework in Unwholesome Premises (S. 108)	
Cases of Infectious Disease notified in Home-workers' Premises	
Orders prohibiting Homework in Infected Premises (S. 110)	
WORKSHOPS ON THE REGISTER (S. 131) AT THE END OF THE YEAR :—	
Important Classes of Workshops, such as Workshop Bakehouses, may be enumerated here {	Workshops 44
	Workplaces... .. 3
	Bakehouses 9
	Dressmakers 17
	Laundries 48
Total Number of Workshops on Register ...	121

* The Lists should be received twice in the year.